

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 118136
ORIGIN OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 /025 R

DRAFTED BY OPIC/F JDBANKS
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
INFO AMCONSUL DOUALA

UNCLAS STATE 118136

FOR JOHN HOLZMAN FROM J. BANKS OF OPIC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN

SUBJECT: CAMEROON INVESTMENT PROMOTION

REF: STATE 95675

1. OPIC OFFICERS HENDERSON AND BANKS MET RECENTLY IN WASHINGTON WITH AMBASSADOR SMYTHE TO REVIEW CLIMATE FOR U.S. INVESTMENT IN CAMEROON IN AFTERMATH OF ILL-FATED A AND B MAIZE PROJECT. IN AMBASSADOR'S VIEW, FALLOUT FROM MAIZE PROJECT LARGELY CONTAINED WITH LITTLE SPILLOVER EFFECT ON OTHERWISE EXCELLENT CLIMATE FOR U.S. INVESTMENT. THEREFORE, OPIC WORKING TO RAPIDLY COMPLETE CENTERPIECE OF PROMOTION CAMPAIGN, PUBLICATION OF QUOTE SPOTLITES UNQUOTE ISSUE FEATURING CAMEROON. PUBLICATION PLANNED BY MAY 19. DRAFT ARTICLES PREPARED TO DATE TO BE SENT TO EMBASSY VIA UNCLAS POUCH NEXT WEEK FOR EMBASSY COMMENT VIA SEPTTEL. THANKS FOR YOUR DRAFT ARTICLE ON TOURISM SECTOR.
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2. OPIC OFFS ALSO DISCUSSED PROPOSED CAMEROONIAN INVESTMENT MISSION TO U.S. WITH AMBASSADOR AND REITERATED OUR STRONG SUPPORT AND OFFER TO ASSIST IN IMPLEMENTATION. REQUEST EMBASSY RESPONSE TO REFTEL TO AID US IN PLANNING.

3. FYI: HENDERSON SPOKE TO GLENN ROGERS OF A AND B ON

MAY 4 TO FOLLOW-UP ON MAIZE PROJECT. TWO EXPATS ALLEN AND OVENS ARE NOW IN ENGLAND HAVING TURNED OVER PILOT FARM IN GOOD SHAPE TO A REDPATH REP AND CAMEROONIANS. CORN IS PLANTED AND GERMINATING QUOTE NICELY UNQUOTE; CAMEROON SHOULD HAVE A FULL CROP TO HARVEST. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS WERE TRANSFERRED WITH NO PROBLEMS. ALLEN AND OVEN'S EXIT FROM CAMEROON WENT VERY SMOOTHLY. OPIC COMMENDED A AND B FOR MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR ALLEN AND OVENS TO STAY AND COMPLETE PLANTING AND FOR INSISTING THAT THEY TURN OVER FIRST-CLASS PROJECT. A AND B HAS HEARD NOTHING FROM SNI FOR OVER THREE WEEKS AND HAS RECEIVED NO PAYMENT ON ITS INVOICES. FINAL INVOICE TO BE SENT IN 10 DAYS. VANCE

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